

PEACE NEWS

Brotherhood : Non-Violence : Freedom

R. H. CROSSMAN MP

Strategic Bombing page 3

EMRYS HUGHES, MP

The Army Estimates page 6

No. 925

Application for entry as second-class matter at Boston, Mass., USA, pending.

March 19, 1954

Registered as a newspaper.

FOURPENCE (U.S. Air Express) Edition: 10 cts.

PACIFISTS AND THE ARCHERS

A mistake — BBC

"NO slight whatever was intended on those who believe in pacifism," the BBC have said, following protests after "Ben White," unsavoury character in "The Archers" programme had declared himself a "pacifist" and opposed to the use of the village hall by the Home Guard.

H. Rooney Pelletier, Chief Assistant, Light Programme, writes in a letter to Alban Little, a member of the Peace Pledge Union:

"We regard the development of Home Guard activities as one of the usual happenings in many villages up and down the country and, consequently we felt that it had a place in the Archers. Equally we are aware that the Home Guard has its opponents as well as its supporters. It was inevitable that the 'born objector' of Ambridge should be among the opponents.

Not the only opponent

"However I am sure we made a mistake in allowing him to refer to himself (while in a particularly cantankerous mood) as a 'pacifist.' This I regret but hasten to assure you that no slight whatever was intended on those people who, for religious or other sincere reasons, believe in pacifism. Indeed during the programme to which you refer, Phillip said: 'We're all pacifists if it comes to that.' Moreover as you will discover during the development of the story, Ben White is not the only opponent of the Home Guard. 'Sympathetic' Archer characters also share his views . . ."

In thanking Mr. Pelletier for his reply, Alban Little pointed out that "Philip Archer's woolly phrase, 'We're all pacifists if it comes to that,' is, if taken seriously, quite senseless although not uncommon. In 1954 the word pacifist means not merely one who has a sentimental or fearful dislike of war; pacifists do not take part in war or its preparation. If Philip's remark were sincere he would, of course, on reflection, withdraw from the Home Guard.

"However, it's your story, but I feel very strongly that as the BBC never allows pacifists to broadcast their viewpoint, adverse criticisms of our creed should be avoided whether in programmes of fact or fiction."

NEW PEACE POSTER

"The true Patriot benefits his own country by promoting the welfare of others" is the message carried by the latest Quaker peace poster, 6d post free from the Northern Friends Peace Board, Clifford Street, York.

ISLANDERS ENDANGERED BY H-BOMB TESTS IN U.N. TRUST TERRITORY

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX inhabitants of the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific and 28 Americans were "unexpectedly exposed to radio-activity" in a recent H-bomb test.

The US Atomic Energy Commission said that the islanders were moved from neighbouring atolls to Kwajalein Island as a precautionary measure. They were not burned and after more tests will be taken back to their homes. The Commission announced on March 1 that the first of a series of nuclear tests had been held in the Marshalls.

A Mrs. G. R. Whitaker, of Cincinnati, Ohio, said that she had received two letters, dated March 3 and 5, from her son, Cpl. Don Whitaker, in which he said that the barracks at Kwajalein shook after the sky had lit up and a rumbling sound like thunder was heard.

Kwajalein is about 300 miles from Eniwetok Atoll where other American tests have been made. Cpl. Whitaker also wrote of having seen Pacific Islanders who were affected by radiation. They had been brought by two destroyers to Kwajalein.

The Marshall Islands are Trust Territory administered by the United States on behalf of the United Nations.

The obligations of administering authorities according to the UN Charter are to recognise the interests of the inhabitants of Trust Territories as paramount, to promote political, economic, social and educational advancements; to provide just treatment and a protection against abuse; to develop self-Government; to further international peace and security; and to encourage constructive development.

Twenty-three Japanese fishermen, injured by

Quaker to die

The appeal against sentence of death imposed on Mr. Altayo Agufana, Kenya Quaker alleged to have possessed bullets, has been dismissed, says an official cable from Nairobi received Wednesday morning.

Only the exercise of the Governor's prerogative can now save him.

To speak on colour bar

Michael Scott is to speak in Leeds on "The Christian and the Colour Bar." The meeting, which is public, will be at Belgrave Hall, New Briggate, on Friday, March 26, at 7.30. It is organised by the West Riding Council for African Affairs, affiliated to the Africa Bureau.

Tom Wardle, of Peace News, is to speak at a meeting of the All Saints' (Friern Barnet) Social Club on "Race Relations in South Africa" on Sunday, March 21, at 8.45 p.m.

PROGRESS IN SELF-GOVERNING HAITI

Unrestricted wood-cutting has denuded Haiti's forest areas permitting extensive soil erosion. UN, at the request of the Haitian Government is encouraging soil conservation, irrigation and the planting of cover crops through its technical assistance programme in an effort to restore Haiti's depleted natural resources. Here Vincent Burns (left) UN forestry expert and Felix Cornille (second from right) Haitian Director of Forestry, inspect a eucalyptus tree at a tree nursery in Haiti. The Republic of Haiti lies at the western end of a large island in the Caribbean Sea not far from Puerto Rico. It was occupied by US troops from 1915 to 1934 after having been independent since the early nineteenth century. Its population of 3,500,000 is made up mostly of the descendants of negro slaves brought to the Indies from Africa by the French, whose colony Haiti once was. It is now completely self-governing.



AMERICA AND RUSSIA TO CO-OPERATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS PLAN

THE United Nations have adopted a plan for a world-wide enquiry into discrimination practised in schools.

The scheme was adopted unanimously by the UN Sub-Commission on Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a body made up of eleven experts from the US, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and eight other states.

It calls for an investigation into all types of discriminatory policies in education, such as discrimination because of sex, religion or similar bias condemned by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The enquiry is expected to take at least a year and will be made with the help of Governments and UNESCO. Experts on the UN Sub-Commission all hailed the plan as a great step forward in the fight for Human Rights.

"Eastern Europe is coming into our work"

DR. GUNNAR MYRDAL, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, spoke in Geneva recently of the "slow process of political healing now developing." In the past he said it had been his duty "to express increasing concern over the dwindling of East-West trade and over the non-participation of Eastern European countries in our committees.

"At last," he went on, "I can report to you that the tide has begun to turn."

Statistics for the latter part of 1953 showed that the decline in commercial exchanges between East and West seemed to have stopped. Most important, all European Governments and responsible officials of the United States had clearly indicated that they regarded an extension of East-West trade as a major objective of economic policy.

"I have never believed," said Dr. Myrdal, "in the possibility of a big international peace settlement which would restore world-wide harmony at one stroke." Such a hope would not be realistic, but, "in this slow process of political healing which now seems to be developing the Economic Commission for Europe can make a modest but important contribution."

I will hold a meeting in Red Square

DR. SOPER ON HIS VISIT TO RUSSIA

IF he can "get hold of an interpreter," Dr. Donald Soper, President of the Methodist Conference, will try to hold an open-air meeting in Red Square, Moscow, when he visits the Soviet Union in the Autumn.

He said this when addressing a crowd estimated at over 1,500 in Nottingham's Old Market Square, last week.

Declaring that he would not be allowed to hold a Christian meeting in Russia, a heckler said he would give £50 to the Methodist Church if Dr. Soper's attempt came off.

Nottingham sat up and took notice during the famous preacher-pacifist's crowded day. In the morning he met ministerial colleagues from all over the County, in the afternoon he spoke to Nottingham University Methodist Society, and before his one-hour "Tower Hill" session in the open-air, led worship and spoke at an Albert Hall rally attended by about 2,000 fellow-Methodists.

To combat race prejudice

"I think I can speak on behalf of the whole of Methodism when I say that we deplore the pestiferous Government of Dr. Malan where 'racialism is concerned," he said, after appealing for support of a project to establish a Methodist International House in the city.

"Here is a piece of practical Christianity which in my judgment is worth ten thousand sermons and will in fact do much to repair much of the damage which has already been done," said Dr. Soper.

Why I am going to Russia

In the square, Dr. Soper was asked the objects of his going to Russia.

He said one reason was to tell people about Christianity. "I want to find out as far as I can for myself what I doubt very much that I can ever get from the propaganda Press of either side—and when I come back I will try to tell the truth, whether it is on our side or not. I dare say that I shall be deceived, because it is very difficult to get a view of Russia when you are only there for a fortnight."

He was determined not to go to Russia with pre-conceived ideas, said Dr. Soper, adding:

If Britain were invaded

Accused of wanting to "destroy" his country because he had earlier said that if Britain were invaded he would not seek to defend it by force of arms, Dr. Soper said: "The first man who sets off atomic warfare is highly likely to do that," and added—"That was said by the foremost atomic scientist in Europe, Sir John Cockcroft!"

Later, he said: "I have respect for a man who is a pacifist and won't fight; I have respect for a man who is not a pacifist, and does fight; but I have no respect for a man who is in favour of a Chamberlain umbrella and does nothing. If I were not a pacifist I would not ask other people to do the fighting for me—and I certainly wouldn't ask youngsters of 18."

Four authorities on social problems write for PN next week

A SPECIAL eight-page Peace News dealing with delinquency and social problems next week will contain contributions from four leading authorities in their particular fields.

Mr. Faithfull-Davies, whose recent articles in The Observer aroused nation-wide discussion, on the teen-age delinquent;

Mr. Frank Dawtry, on the hardened criminal;

Miss B. M. Brock, Children's Officer for Peterborough, on the deprived child in infancy;

Mr. A. Joseph Brayshaw, on marriage guidance.



This UN photograph of a demonstration by the people of a South Seas Trust Territory was taken when a UN mission visited the area.

PEACE NEWS

3 BLACKSTOCK ROAD, LONDON, N.4
Tel: STAmford Hill 2262 (three lines)

March 19, 1954

TRADE WITH CHINA

ON February 12 we forecast "a volte face on the part of the big business section of the Republican Party on the question of the American attitude to China, as soon as it is realised that the continuance of an arms race can no longer be the means to the retention of their economic power."

We did not anticipate, however, that it would take only a month for us to get the first substantial indication of this change. The US State Department has told the French Government that it is ready to offer economic aid to China as a means to the ending of the Indo-Chinese war.

At the same time we learn that 500,000 were added to the American unemployment during the past month, making the total figure of unemployment more than three millions. In this connection we draw attention to the table we publish on this page.

It will be remembered that President Eisenhower has indicated that he will take special steps if there is no evidence that the "recession" is coming to an end by the time March is out. It looks as if these special steps will be called for, and not any of them with the slightest promise of adequacy would be likely to find favour with those who supply the funds for the Republican Party.

Economic aid to China is to be offered in return for a discontinuance by China of a supply of arms to Viet Minh. China has been supplying Viet Minh while the USA has been supplying Viet Nam, and France.

★ ★ ★

Although America will be ready, on terms, to provide economic aid to China it does not propose to recognise the Chinese Government. What it has in mind apparently is the following extremely curious arrangement.

It holds that the true Government of China is headed by Chiang Kai-shek and sits in Formosa. This Government is to maintain its place as representing China in the United Nations, and by virtue of the fact that the nation it is to represent is a people of 500 millions it is to continue to hold one of the five important permanent places in the Security Council.

With the other Government—the one sitting in Peking, and held to have no right to represent the Chinese people—the United States Government will make the necessary arrangements and seek the necessary guarantees for the opening of trade relations to supply the needs of the people on the Chinese mainland, and, of course, particularly trade in capital goods that will not have to be countered by exports from China, which would add to the American surplus.

This arrangement is to be entered upon and maintained while the Government with which it is to be negotiated is not to be recognised, and the Government which is its declared enemy is to be both recognised and sustained.

★ ★ ★

We greatly hope that peace in Indo-China will be one of the results of the Geneva Conference, but we do not expect that this offer will greatly affect it. In this connection the USA is likely to be just as much in the position of supplicant as China.

The British Government made a very serious mistake in its relationship with the USA after the war. It acted as if the need were wholly in Britain and the means to help in the USA. This was a fundamental error. The means to help were certainly in the USA, but the means to dispose of them was just as much a basic need for the American economy as the assistance so given was a need for Britain's economy. There was never any necessity for Britain to put herself in the grovelling position she showed herself ready to accept.

There is little reason to assume that the Government of China, that has no disposition to refrain from looking America's gift-horses in the mouth, will make the same mistake as that made by Britain.

In the meantime a group of British business men have already been in contact with the Chinese authorities and believe they can expect very large orders indeed. At the beginning of the week between 30 and 40 of them left for East Berlin to submit their tenders. With the channels of trade once more open it is highly probable that the Chinese may prefer to do business with the nationals of States that recognise the Chinese Government.

If this happens we think that there is very little doubt that it will not take long for the US Republican Government to declare its readiness to recognise the Chinese Government. That will be all to the good from the standpoint of the peace of the world, but this consideration will not have been the impelling motive.

The leaning tower of power

THE problem of McCarthyism is so compelling that the deeper significance of the present conflicts in US Government circles is missed.

The part the US has cast for herself demands united devotion to a sense of national mission in the world. It is an earnest of the falsity of that mission that the desired unity cannot be achieved, and instead the governors of the most powerful state in the world reveal themselves as neurotic backbiting competitors.

This is the kind of stress which overtakes all highly concentrated power systems in time. It is paralleled absolutely by the affairs in Russia and Eastern Europe. Substitute Beria for Harry Dexter White, substitute a Russian doctor for an American dentist, MVD officials for CIO officials, and what is happening becomes clear.

If the world can avoid permitting these dissensions to relieve themselves through war, it is not impossible that we may yet witness the breakdown of both power groups. When the monolith begins to topple it is the man on the top who has furthest to fall.

The shrug

MR. JOHN GORDON, of the Sunday Express, records a happening which, if it had occurred in a Russian port instead of the port of Baltimore, USA, would have set all the Press of the "free world" commenting on the inhuman standards of the Russian authorities in dealing with individual men and women.

The comments would have been completely justified. They would have related to a set of conditions that are being increasingly reproduced in America. While there is evidence that such conditions may be tending to amelioration in Russia, they are very obviously becoming worse in the USA.

US immigration officials at Baltimore refused to permit a cabin-boy on a British ship, who lay gravely ill in his bunk, to be brought ashore for treatment. His condition worsened. The ship's Chief Officer therefore telephoned a hospital and described the lad's condition. He was told that he must be brought into hospital at once.

He was accordingly removed there.

Immediate steps were taken by the port authorities to deal with the really important aspect of the matter: the ship's Captain was fined \$1,000 (about £350). He naturally protested. "What if the boy had died?" he asked. "The Immigration Inspector shrugged his shoulders," records Mr. Gordon.

That shrug did not mark the end of the matter for the Captain, however. The boy was too ill to leave when the ship sailed and, without being given permission by the immigration authorities to do so, the Captain signed the boy off. For this he was fined another \$100.

Fruits of fear

Now we do not, of course, suggest that this incident is representative of the way the American people react to cases of human suffering. We know very well that it is not. It is, however, representative of the multitudes of inhumanities that can be produced by the network of restrictive measures taken for "security."

These restrictions have to be administered by people who are themselves actuated by fear, are not always particularly imaginative, and feel that they dare not do other than give literal obedience to their instructions. They play for

BEHIND THE NEWS

"safety"; and safety for them may mean loss, distress, suffering or even death for scores of unfortunate folk who are just the material of the job.

It is this combination of factors that has produced so much misery in Russia; it is the same set of circumstances that is increasingly producing misery in the USA.

Constitution making in Kenya

THE one satisfactory thing that has emerged out of the discussions on Mr. Lyttelton's proposals for a plan of Government reorganisation in Kenya has been the apparent resolve of the Asian communities not to participate in

"statesmanlike" considerations that are brought to these discussions that their monstrous basis tends to be overlooked. A nation that is held to be one of the principal exponents of democracy in the world has been in control of Kenya for more than half a century. After such a period it is seeking means for the great mass of the population to express itself politically other than by opposition and rebellion. It proposes that this shall be done by giving millions of the population one place on a Council, while a few thousands who have, however, been able to concentrate the economic power in their hands are to be given three.

That this can be discussed as an example of our dedicated desire to see just conditions prevail is evidence of the depths of self-delusion of which men are capable.

The discussions of the week have brought more revealing speeches from the settlers expressing their antagonism even to this plan. Mr. Humphrey Slade, representing the Aberdare area, says "This is a moral and spiritual battle and may develop into a more physical battle than it is now"; at which a number of those in his audience shouted "Let's start now."

All this provides considerable confirmation of our comments last week that there can be no reasonable future for Kenya while the settlers are left there. They should be brought out.

The Press and the "Defence" debates . . .

THERE were all-night sittings in the Commons on each of the three sets of Service Estimates, Army, Navy and Air Force. Mr. Cummings, of the News Chronicle, remarks that "all the public does now is to make derisory noises about all-night sittings"; and invites his readers to "ask any man or woman anywhere."

Why Mr. Cummings thinks that stupidity is so general that any man or woman anywhere will make derisory noises about a thing they know next to nothing about, we cannot imagine. In no organ of the popular Press is any information worth mentioning given about what is said in these debates. Certainly not in the News Chronicle.

On the debate on the Army Estimates that occupied Thursday and was carried on until Friday morning the Daily Herald, that newspaper for people of serious political views, gave just eight lines without mentioning a word of what was said.

. . . and race prejudice

WHILE we are commenting on the popular Press, we should like to express appreciation of the way some newspapers are dealing with the issue of race prejudice.

The People is running a series, "Because my skin is black," sensationally presented but aimed at breaking down the prejudice that is brought to the subject. The Daily Mirror has had a short series giving humbling examples of the unimaginative stupidity that exists in Britain on the colour question, while in the Star there has been an article by Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker dealing with "this inhuman blot" here and in Africa.

We have never pretended to have any love for the sensational Press but if any case can be made for sensationalism at all it is surely in seeking to break down the senseless and inhuman prejudices of stupid people. The People and the Mirror are doing a particularly good job here.

Puerto Rico and the U.S.A.

WHETHER from a pacifist or a broad human point of view, there is something peculiarly shocking and horrible about the outburst of violence by three or four members of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico in the US House of Representatives on March 1.

It is a form of direct action which was long ago repudiated by Marxists, including Bolsheviks or Communists in Russia. Pacifists cannot but condemn the violence in which Puerto Rican Nationalists have from time to time engaged and dissociate themselves from any participation in it.

The idea advanced by a few a decade or so that Don Pedro was the Gandhi of Puerto Rico had and has no foundation.

Don Pedro himself, in an interview with a member of the Peacemaker group after he was pardoned not long ago by Governor Muñoz Marín, frankly dismissed non-violence as impractical in the Puerto Rican situation. It had been tried, he contended, and failed.

In fairness it should be said that neither those who took part in the Nationalist Party revolt in Puerto Rico in 1950, nor Oscar Colazzo who was involved in the attack on President Truman in that year, nor any of the present defendants have made the slightest effort to evade or disclaim responsibility for their acts or to make them appear other than the violent protests which they are.

I am not sure what the situation in Puerto Rico itself may be—there was some display of gunfire when Pedro Albizu Campos, Nationalist leader, and four followers were arrested in San Juan after the Congress shooting—but here on the mainland the reaction to the unfortunate episode in Washington has been remarkably restrained and free from hysteria.

No excessive violence was used in arresting the perpetrators of the Congress attack. The

judge before whom they were arraigned appointed four attorneys of considerable standing in Washington to defend them. The Press has refrained, so far as I have been able to observe, from attempts to stir up bitterness or mob spirit against Puerto Ricans generally and even against Nationalists.

It is a tremendous contrast to the way in which the Communist issue is currently handled!

The line being taken in nearly all comments from Muñoz Marín and the New York Times down is that the violent deeds are done by members of a group of 500 or so in Puerto Rico and around 50 in New York and Chicago on the mainland, and that these people must be regarded as deranged persons—in some cases paranoiacs—who have no following in Puerto Rico, not only because Puerto Ricans do not approve their methods but because conditions at least, relatively, are so good that Puerto Ricans generally are satisfied with the tie to the USA and the "Commonwealth" status which the US Congress has given them.

PERSECUTION

The suggestion that Don Pedro and some of his followers are indeed suffering from a persecution complex is plausible, if only because over the years they have been subjected to repeated imprisonment and other trials; but I do not know that the diagnosis has been established by competent professional authority.

It will be a grave mistake, however, if Americans and others accept the theory that we have some mental cases to deal with in a context devoid of socio-economic and political issues.

To begin with, the "Commonwealth" status which Puerto Rico "enjoys" is an anomaly

in the American system and does not mean that Puerto Rico has the status of a nation such as Canada in the British Commonwealth.

The Federal Government handles the foreign relations, defence and trade relations of Puerto Rico as is pointed out by an experienced New York Times reporter, Peter Kihss, in the issue of March 7. Puerto Rico has a single Resident Commissioner in Congress who has no vote and a chance to speak only by permission of Congress.

CONSCRIPTION

Under Federal laws, in the making of which they have absolutely nothing to say, Puerto Ricans are drafted to serve in US armies. As Mr. Kihss points out, it is not only Nationalists but the Independentista Party, which adheres strictly to peaceful methods, that calls this "a tribute of blood imposed without representation." Senator Conception, founder of the Independentista Party, contends that Congress can still unilaterally withdraw such status as it has granted.

The UN General Assembly a few months ago was faced with a US announcement that Puerto Rico was now "self-governing," consequently the US would no longer report to the UN on its conduct in Puerto Rico.

The US brought a good deal of pressure to bear on the vote and neither the Nationalist nor the Independence Party was given a hearing.

The vote was indeed 26 to 16 for the US contention, but there were 18 abstentions which certainly—to refer again to the New York Times—"beclouded the international verdict at the UN."

The contention that only a handful of Nationalists want independence seems on the face of it false. The Independentista Party

LETTER FROM U.S.A.

By A. J. Muste

polled nearly 20 per cent. of the vote in the 1952 elections, 126,000 compared to 66,000 in 1948. The Nationalist Party claims that the majority of the Puerto Ricans are opposed to the present status and indicated this by adopting the Nationalist Party advice to boycott the referendum.

They back up their case by pointing out that of the adult population of over a million (according to the US report to the UN for the year ending June 30 1952) only 463,283 voted and of these only 373,594 voted for the new constitution. There is no way of determining exactly how many abstentions represented deliberate boycotting and how many indifference or ignorance, but the figures certainly throw doubt on the confident assertion often heard that virtually all Puerto Ricans are satisfied with their political status and the present tie to the US.

Add the fact that the Muñoz Marín regime has enacted a loyalty oath and fired a brilliant young pacifist architect, Robert Pope, because he would not take the oath although no one for a moment contended that he was a subversive; that it enacted a law at least as bad as the notorious Smith Act in the US under which mere advocacy of "overthrow of the Government" is penalized; and that the Marín regime exacts contributions to the Popular Democratic Party from all Puerto Rican office holders—and one has additional reasons for believing that Nationalists and others have legitimate grievances.

One also realizes that there is some doubt as to just how much it is worth in this context when President Eisenhower tells the US that he is prepared to advise Congress to grant Puerto

* back page

YOUR WORLD

BUGANDA: In reply to a question in the House of Commons, it was stated that the Colonial Secretary would be prepared to consider proposals from the Kabaka that he should be given the opportunity of returning provided he would relinquish all claims to the Kabakaship and give assurances of his intention to live as a private citizen.



FRENCH WEST AFRICA: M. Xavier Torre, Secretary-General of the Government of French West Africa, opened the West African Defence Conference at Dakar. Plans are to be drawn up for the co-ordination of troop and supply movements by land, air and water in the event of an emergency. The conference, called by Britain and France, is attended by representatives from Belgium, South Africa, Portugal and Liberia. Observers from the US and the Central African Federation are also present. Commentators suggested that the conference might consider plans for the establishment of a South Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

BRITISH HONDURAS: An enquiry is to be made into alleged links between the People's United Party and the Government of neighbouring Guatemala which is reported to be Communist-inclined. The enquiry is to be conducted by a Commissioner from Britain. Mr. Wolfsohn, who will be Speaker in the Legislative Council after the first general election in British Honduras next month, said there was "absolutely no danger" from a Communist threat in the colony.

VENEZUELA: A national fundamental education centre on the lines of the famous international one at Patzcuaro, Mexico, has been opened at Palo Negro. Originally launched as a project in improving living conditions, in rural villages, it will now also train workers to serve in other regions of Venezuela. Dr. Rupert M. East, prominent British educator, who worked more than 20 years in Nigeria, has joined the centre.

INDIA: Janata College, near New Delhi, has just completed three years' work in fundamental education. A central library has been set up from which graduates may obtain material for the literacy classes they are giving in surrounding villages. In those communities where living conditions and methods of agriculture are extremely primitive, courses have been started in practical agriculture, with emphasis on co-operative action. Leather and linen work, civic education, cattle raising, soap making, health education, hygiene and metal work are also taught in these villages.

BELGIUM: Jean Van Lierde, war resister who has spent some time in prison and has now been drafted to work in the mines, has written a pamphlet, "Six Months in the Hell of a Belgian Mine." It is a terrible indictment of conditions actually experienced by the author and continually borne by the miners (many of them foreigners invited by the Belgian Government). The pamphlet, which is in French, can be obtained from Albert Wambeke, 16 Rue Vandermeesch, Schoerbeek, Brussels, CCP 7952.50. Price: 7.50 Belgian francs. —WRI News Service.

A TALE OF TEN SHILLINGS



A PEACE PLEDGE UNION member, while shopping in a large store in a Northern city, saw a ten shilling note on the floor. She retrieved it and took it to the manager who said that if it was not claimed within a stated time, she could have it. Subsequent enquiries showed that the note was unclaimed, and the manager therefore agreed to hand it over to the finder, who said that she thought the best solution would be for her to give it to a charity and that she would send it to the PPU.

The manager demurred, suggesting that some local charity would be more appropriate, but the finder insisted on her choice, explaining that however useful local charities might be, their work ultimately depended on the effectiveness of the PPU in securing a welfare world. So the PPU's Headquarters Fund is the richer by 10s. and, we hope, the manager the wiser for the good advice given to him.

A true story which points the moral that however important other considerations are, the overriding problem is that of creating a world which can be prosperous and healthy because it is at peace; a story which also underlines the truth that not only is the expenditure of money on war preparations a tragic waste, but that among the good and useful causes that of pacifism must take first place.

It is seldom, if ever, that we are fortunate enough to pick up a ten shilling note, but if you look in your purse or your pocket now you might find a ten shilling note or a silver coin, and rejecting the theory that "findings are keepings," decide to send it to the Peace Pledge Union for the very best of all causes—the spreading of pacifism and the promotion of constructive peace-making.

STUART MORRIS,
General Secretary.

Our aim for 1954: £1,000.
Quarterly average: £250.
Amount received to date: £73.

Donations to the Peace Pledge Union should be sent marked "Headquarters Fund," to the PPU Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

STRATEGIC BOMBING

"Policy of Bomber Command absolutely inhuman"

—R. H. S. CROSSMAN, MP

"I REGARD the possession of the atom bomb by the Americans as one of the major factors in their demoralisation," Mr. R. H. S. Crossman, MP (Lab., Coventry E.), told the House of Commons during the recent all-night session on the Air Estimates.

The bomb had given the Americans a sense of guilt and uncertainty.

"It first made them crazy through over assurance, because they thought they had a monopoly, and then it made them crazy through fear."

He felt there was no reason why Britain should build up a strategic bomber force.

"It will add nothing to our military defence. It will not make us a first-class Power equal with America or Russia, but it will in turn bring us to moral degradation."

Earlier Mr. Strachey, War Minister in the last Labour Government, had urged the building up of a British atom bomber force in order to strengthen our bargaining position with the USA. This brought Mr. Crossman to his feet:

"If he (Mr. Strachey) really thinks that a minimum bomber force prevents us being completely under the power of the Americans in the event of war, he is simpler than I am."

"The moment we start the next war we shall be absolutely in the hands of the Americans. We shall depend upon them for our food."

"Korea has taught us nothing"

Arguing against the theory that an atomic bomber force was effective as a deterrent to local aggression, Mr. Crossman continued:

"Is anyone going to tell me that this country, supposing he were local aggression in Indo-China, would consent to the dropping of a Norfolk-based atom bomb on Moscow which would mean the destruction of London the next day?"

"Every time we are brought up against this problem we say, 'No.'"

"Apparently Korea has taught us nothing, judging by the debate we have had today. We are simply told we must have strategic bombers if we are to remain a first-class Power. If that is the definition of a first-class Power, I should like to cease to be a first-class Power in that sense of the word."

Bomber Command's inhuman policy

"I remember the time in 1940 when the Germans bombed Rotterdam and the genuine moral indignation in this country when that happened. I happened to be in charge of propaganda for Germany at that time and throughout the war. And I noticed the change."

"In 1940 we thought it absolutely inhuman and a violation of every democratic right to bomb the centre of an unprotected city."

"Then we started preparing to do it ourselves."

"We started systematic plans for what was called dehousing which meant deliberately not bombing military targets but systematically destroying working-class areas in German towns."

"That was the policy of Bomber Command, it was absolutely inhuman, and it culminated in Dresden when, quite deliberately, knowing that refugees were in the town, the bombing took place."

"It is one of the most humiliating things that the Western Democracies, who are the sanest and kindest people in their relations with each other in peace, are more utterly brutal in war than the totalitarian powers."

Now I come to 1950 and Korea. Automatically the United Nations in Korea regarded strategic bombing as a method of educating the North Koreans in democracy. The whole country was deluged. There was no sort of pretence that there was any distinction between civilian and military targets.

"Hundreds of thousands of people were bombed with jelly bombs quite automatically."

"I want the House to observe the way we felt in 1940 when we saw the Germans do it to Rotterdam and then the acceptance of this as a perfectly normal way of waging war in 1950. In my belief it lost us the war in Korea. For if there was any way of proving to the Asians that this was the white man coming to smash them up, it was the ruthless bombing of North Korea."

Russia has no bombing force

"The Germans and the Russians are land Powers. They used their air forces in connection with their armies because they fought to win territories, whereas the democracies fight wars to destroy countries. In the first months of the last war, the German attack was strictly limited to military bombing until September 7. It was only when the invasion was postponed that they bombed London because they had nothing else to do."

"The Russians have never had a great strategic bomber force. They are concerned

in wars to conquer countries, whereas the virtuous Anglo-Saxon democracies are only concerned to blow the enemy to bits until there is nothing left."

"Towards the end of the war we were constantly wiping out German towns because we had acquired the habit of destroying them."

'CALLED DEHOUSING'



"... systematically destroying working class houses"

"I recall the day before the war ended a raid was ordered on the Skoda Works. Unfortunately we hit the brewery at Pilsen a 100 miles away, and I was told at the operations room that the target had been selected because there was nothing else left on the map."

"These things were accepted without a tremor. And now we hear the view that there should be a large capital expenditure on strategic bombers. There is not much of a tremor over that."

"It is a big decision. Think what we could do with that amount of money in terms of skill and labour. Think how many dollars we could earn."

"Yet we must forbear, to earn them in order to be a first-class Power, and to have one-tenth of the strategic bomber force of the United States and to feel nearly as good as the Americans. If one defines 'First-class' in terms of strategic bombers, we are always inferior to the Americans. But I want us to be first-class by a different definition, where there is no sign of inferiority."

MR. A. HENDERSON (Lab., Rowley Regis): "Do I understand the hon. Gentleman to say that he is opposed to strategic bombing, but not to other forms of bombing?"

MR. CROSSMAN: "Whether I am opposed to strategic bombing or not makes no difference. The Americans will do it anyway. I am asking myself whether we should spend a large amount of money in contributing a minor ancillary force to the American strategic bomber force. I am arguing that, even were it moral to do that, there is no reason why we should ruin ourselves economically to do it in a small way which does not help the Americans significantly."

"The best use of arms"

SIR HARRY MACKESON (Con., Folkestone and Hythe): "If we are going to spend any money on armaments the object is to kill men and the method does not matter, according to the hon. Member."

MR. CROSSMAN: "I hope the hon. Gentleman will not take offence, but that is what any German or Russian would call a militarily illiterate remark. The object of arms or aeroplanes is not to kill men but to occupy enemy territory at the minimum cost of life."

SIR H. MACKESON: "Is that the best use of arms?"

MR. CROSSMAN: "The best use of arms is not to use them at all. The second best is to use them with the minimum destruction of any enemy territory which we want to occupy."

"It takes the Anglo-Saxon logic of the British and the Americans to say: 'The first thing to do is to smash this place to pieces and later spend millions of pounds to put it together again.' We first say that the Germans must be wiped out, and then we change our minds and spend lots of money in rearming the Germans."

"Part of the lunatic policy is this strategic air force. It epitomises the philosophy of total destruction, which was expressed by the hon. Gentleman who said the point of a war

* Continued on back page

RECLAIM THE HUNGRY ACRES

F. Newman Turner, editor of the organic farming journal, *The Farmer*, proposes in this season's issue a constructive purpose to which national service can be turned, if we must have national service. In his editorial he writes:

IN this country we have approximately 20 million acres of land which is not in full production for various reasons.

The main reason is the prohibitive cost of bringing it into full production, partly because it is thin marginal land in many cases not easy of access for the transport that is necessary to bring humus to it, and partly because no private individual has thought it worth while to get it fertile.

A national task

Clearly the reclamation of these marginal acres is a national and not a private task. And I don't necessarily mean that this land must come into national ownership. For there is plenty of private enterprise which needs nothing but financial stimulus to get it to work.

● WHY cannot full production from marginal land be considered as much a national service as military training?

● WHY, indeed, if men must be conscripted to so-called national service, cannot their service include such constructive tasks as bringing fertility to marginal acres instead of learning to lose such love of hard work as a young chap of 18 usually has when he goes into the forces—but rarely has when he comes out?

● WHY shouldn't the convoys of army lorries slowly moving with learner drivers along narrow country roads, carry sewage sludge and seaweed to the humus deficient marginal lands, instead of travelling empty?

It shouldn't take much intelligence and organisation to bring together the millions of hungry acres, the millions of tons of sewage sludge, town wastes and seaweed to make them fertile, and the hundreds of young people who long for a life on the land but who can find no opportunity to make a start.

A chance for townspeople

I am much perturbed by my inability to help the many townspeople who write to me and say they wish to work on the land, have no experience, but must earn a wage to keep their families clothed and fed. There is nothing I can offer to help them, for no farmer can afford to pay an inexperienced townsman and also give the time to teaching him his job.

● But there seems no reason why a government which is really earnest about the more capable and enthusiastic of them, should not rent marginal land, and set up caravan sites upon which they could live while reclaiming the land by carting municipal compost—plus seaweed whenever available—to build a skin of humus on the thinnest of soils.

This would indeed be national welfare and national service. It is hard to understand why such obvious operations are never considered by men in power, for few government undertakings would show such good returns in food and healthy, happy men.

FOOTNOTE: Land held by the War Office amounts to 388,000 acres in England, 40,500 acres in Scotland and 47,000 acres in Wales.

CEWC announce Holiday Conferences

THE Council for Education in World Citizenship is organising Summer Holiday Conferences in Denmark, Yugoslavia, France, Switzerland, Holland and England (Bristol).

Parties attended all these, except the ones in Denmark and Bristol, last year and in every case the visit was a great success. The Conference in Denmark is a new venture, especially intended for boys and girls in the younger age group (13-15) and will be held in conjunction with the Danish school at Hillerod, near Copenhagen.

All Conferences have an educational programme, in which children of the host country also participate. The visits naturally vary in many respects: for example, the Yugoslavian expedition to the Julian Alps and the Dalmatian Coast is only suitable for the "tougher" boy or girl who enjoys climbing, and the one in Berlin for German linguists of over 17 years of age who are prepared to give most of the time to serious discussion on international affairs and to stay on for at least one week, as the guest of a German family.

The Swiss Conference is divided between Geneva, where there is a course of study on the United Nations (including lectures of a very high standard, on widely diverse subjects, and visits to buildings of international and historical interest) and a chalet in the beautiful mountain resort of Les Plans, 7,000 feet above sea level.

The costs of the Continental trips vary as between £20 and £35. Full details can be obtained from The Assistant Secretary, CEWC, 25 Charles Street, London, W.1.

H. W. Franklin denies vote for arms

MR. H. W. FRANKLIN, who represents the 323,000-strong National Union of Railwaymen on the Labour Party National Executive, has made it clear in a statement issued to the Press, that he never abstained from voting or changed his vote on the Arms-for-Germany plan during a meeting of the Executive.

He was reported in the Daily Express as having done so.

As a pacifist opposed to the armament of all nations he voted against the plan.

RUSSIAN CHANGES AFTER STALIN

IV. After the release of the doctors

IN introducing these articles it was remarked that the release of the doctors in the first month of the Malenkov regime was an act of very great significance and indicated a change of first importance.

What happened in this case was so different from what had gone before that it is of use to set out the facts.

On January 13, 1953, it was announced in Russia that nine doctors, six of whom were Jews, had been arrested. They were charged with murdering two political leaders and plotting the deaths of the chiefs of the armed forces.

Their crimes, it was alleged, had been undertaken under the orders of the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, "Joint," which was described as a branch of the American Intelligence Service. The Daily Worker published the account of the arrests under the headline: "Monstrous Act of British and American Cold War Exposed."

These arrests came less than two months after the Prague trial of Slansky and others, in which the fact that a number of those who were to be executed (and who had of course confessed) were Jews was heavily emphasised and Zionism in particular was strongly attacked.

Confessions

All these doctors "confessed." Their confessions were not just a general admission of guilt, but were detailed and particularised. Dr. Vovskii, for instance, one of the accused, confessed to having received instructions from the United States to exterminate leading figures in Russia. These instructions came through "Joint" from a Dr. Shimeliovich. Other instructions had come from a former director of the Jewish State Theatre named Mikhoels.

Seven weeks after this Stalin died, and four weeks after his death it was announced that the doctors were completely exculpated, despite their detailed confessions, and that they could be fully reinstated in their positions. Dr. Vovskii, to whose confession we have referred, was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Ministry of Health.

Now although the arrest and confessions of only nine had been announced (later there had been a report that it was eleven) actually fifteen were declared innocent of the charges that had been made against them. At the time Peace News suggested that a possible explanation was that their captors had only succeeded by torture (the "illegal means" now officially reported and condemned) in extracting from the smaller number statements that could be used as confessions, and that announcements about the others had been kept back until later when greater success might have been registered.

Henry Shapiro, a French journalist who was in Moscow during all this period, suggests another explanation. He points out that, of the nine originally announced as having confessed, six were Jews. When the full list of fifteen was published after the liberation of these men it showed that the Jews were actually in a minority. The smaller list was therefore desirable to support the allegation that it was a Jewish plot being undertaken in conjunction with "Joint."

There are two further facts to be noted about this announcement of exculpation. Of

the fifteen doctors referred to only thirteen were actually released; the other two, M. V. Kogan and V. G. Etinger, had died under the treatment they had received. The other thing to be noted is that in this new denunciation of the plot against the doctors it is not only the fifteen who were totally exculpated but also "the others accused in this affair." According to Mr. Shapiro these others were hundreds of doctors whose arrests had begun in 1950; and although it was on January 13 that the arrest of the nine was announced they had actually been in prison before that date.

I pointed out last year that what was disclosed in the case of the doctors throws a great light on what had been happening during the period of fifteen years in which Beria had been at the head of the MVD and during earlier years. It is quite evident that none of these executions can be assumed to be necessarily just (even on the standards of totalitarian necessity) or the confessions to be true.

No regrets

It is not this aspect, however, that I wish to dwell upon in this article, although I feel I must say that I have waited in vain for any leading West European Communist to express regret for the abuse poured upon old comrades when it was decided that they must be killed, or to say a word to rehabilitate their characters. Surely political abasement can go no further than this!

What I think is particularly important to observe now is the sequence of events that followed the frame-up and forced confessions of the doctors.

Beria and a few of those closely associated with him have been killed. There have even been "confessions," but it has been very evident that the Russian Government did not expect them to be taken seriously. They were just a very perfunctory concession to convention in this matter. It is exceedingly unlikely that Beria and his associates had anything to do with them. They were just included in the official "hand-out" because it was assumed that something of the kind would be expected, and it was known that Beria would not be brought to public trial but would be swiftly and secretly disposed of.

Whether the way he had directed the MVD had anything to do with his execution we do not know. He may have been killed to prevent a coup d'état in a struggle for leadership: a minimal "night of the long knives," just as the bloody purges of the thirties were a maximal and monstrous one.

That there was no attempt to build up a great terror purge this time but that it was kept as small as possible seems to me, in a power struggle in a totalitarian State to be a fact of great importance.

A further significant thing is that the woman doctor, Lydia Timashuk, who had been reported to have denounced the doctors and to have been responsible for their arrest received no punishment and hardly any blame. It was presumably taken for granted that she had had her allotted role which she had carried out on pain of being dealt with herself. Who knows but that the same consideration may have applied to Beria, in which case it will be evident that it was in a struggle to take power that he was killed.

End of the era of terror

Then, as we have pointed out in an earlier article a purge in the MVD had obviously



A youngster from Soviet Mongolia.

become necessary if a more humanly decent policy was to be followed; nevertheless it was found possible to do this without any Stalinist massacre. What happened was that the MVD employees who had to be removed were just deprived of their posts; in some cases they were simply transferred to other posts in which they would not be able to operate in the way they had done hitherto.

If one throws one's mind back over the past year it will be realised that although Party purging has been going on in no case has it been accompanied by the bloody holocaust that would have occurred under Stalin. There have been administrative and Party purges in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine. These will have their effect on the composition of the Supreme Soviet that was returned last weekend, but they were ac-

complished without slaughter.

It seems to have become possible in Russia to remove people from high office in the Communist Party without killing them, just as it has been possible to do so in France in the cases of M. Marty and M. Lecoq.

It is hardly necessary to remind readers that the venomous anti-Jewish campaign that was being lashed up a year ago has completely subsided, and that Russia has resumed friendly diplomatic relations with Israel.

There seems to be good reason to hope that the era of terror through murderous purges in Russia is over. If this hope is borne out by future events it will have effects for good in all the subordinate organs of Russia government from the Supreme Soviet to the trade union branches.

J. A. S.

A British Communist comments . . .

To the Editor

FAR be it from me to say anything that would minimise the improvements that are steadily taking place in the USSR, but I feel that your story, "Ending the slave labour system," is doubly misleading in that (a) it supports the theory of "slave labour" in the USSR, and (b) it suggests that the Soviet penal reform system has been radically altered. There is no evidence for either of these views.

First, as regards "slave labour." The simple fact is that prisoners in all countries have to work. If, in Britain, there has been a certain preference for setting them to sew mailbags in the intervals between long spells of solitary confinement, one of the main reasons has been a justified fear by the trade union movement of the undercutting of their standards by prison labour.

In the USSR, where there is full employment and a rising standard of life, there are no such fears. Hence the use of prison labour on a wider range of occupations, such as vast construction jobs. But it is utterly absurd to suggest that the Soviet economy has ever been seriously dependent on such labour, and this particular "theory," much popularised by a number of pseudo-scientific American writers, has been most effectively exposed by Mr. A. Baykov in No. 7, 1952, of the Birmingham University BULLETIN OF SOVIET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. In that Bulletin he has been able to show how estimates of Soviet "forced labourers" range from 3½ to 20 millions and that even the figure of, say, 3½ millions, "could be reduced to a fraction of its size" on the basis of the factual material under analysis. I would recommend this Bulletin to any of your readers interested in this aspect of the question.

Secondly, regarding prison camp conditions.

I am confident that conditions are improving, for the simple reason that in every country prison conditions bear a certain relationship to the living standards of the people as a whole. The overwhelming majority of reports of bad conditions in Soviet prison camps are reports of wartime conditions, when millions of people in Russia were on the borderline of existence, seven million lost their lives, and 25 million were made homeless. Naturally, under such conditions, prisoners were overcrowded and underfed and in many cases no doubt overworked. But so was the whole population in its life-and-death struggle for survival. Since the war, conditions have improved, continue to improve, and further improvements must undoubtedly result from the thorough spring-cleaning of the whole apparatus now in progress.

When, however, we examine each particular report of alleged "horrors" they are usually riddled with contradictions. (Your Dr. Hunold's horror story, incidentally, is not about Russia but Eastern Germany.) As regards the report of Brigitte Gerland in The Observer, it is extremely hard to believe her stories of incredibly long hours of work when at the same time we are told of "Girls in colourfully embroidered blouses" singing in one corner of a room, women "holding a sort of prayer meeting" in another, and "young men and women conducting an impassioned debate, for all the world as if they were in some European café." Strangely enough, this picture conforms very closely to the official Soviet picture of the treatment of prisoners, with no solitary confinement except in cases of extreme punishment, free to dress as they wish, etc., etc. I am sure this description of Soviet prison life would stir a sense of envy in Holloway and Dartmoor!

So do let us be realistic. They do have prison camps in the USSR just as we have

prisons here. They do not believe in housing people in small cells and forcing them into ugly uniforms and they have a greater freedom to associate with one another than in English prisons. They do have to work but so do prisoners here. And their hours cannot be so exhausting if, after work, they appear as pictured by Brigitte Gerland.

During the war, of course, there was overcrowding and underfeeding, for the whole country was overcrowded and underfed. But as conditions have improved since the war, so they have for prisoners. The amnesty of last year released many criminals; and the clean-up in the Ministry of Home Affairs will undoubtedly mean a further improvement. But Soviet prisoners will still have to work, and the basic system—of training prisoners for constructive labour—will continue to operate. Incidentally, any slow-down in certain large construction schemes is the direct result of the speed-up in consumers' goods production and has no connection with the prison question. Anyone who wants to see how the big construction schemes are now built should see the VOLGA-DON CANAL film. It is no longer a matter of massed unskilled labour, but vast modern mechanisation which counts.

PAT SLOAN,
General Secretary, British-Soviet
Friendship Society.

36 Spencer Street, E.C.1.
It was to 15 years' imprisonment in Russia that Dr. Hunold was sentenced.—Ed.

Other letters on page 5

Make friends abroad

ITT's low cost tours and centres are planned specially to help you get know the folk among whom you travel abroad. Stamp please for 1954 programme

INTERNATIONAL TRAMPING TOURS

Dept. PN, 6, Bainbridge Road, Leeds, 2

No Socialist is complete
without

TRIBUNE

Place a regular order with
your newsagent or send 2s 6d
for the next nine issues to:

TRIBUNE PUBLICATIONS LTD.
222 Strand, London W.C.2.

PRINTING

MAGAZINES · PAMPHLETS
NEWSLETTERS · POSTERS
Reports, Balance Sheets, and
all Commercial Printing

Enquiries receive prompt attention:

C. A. BROCK & Co.
LIMITED
79 SOUTHERN ROW, LONDON, W10

Talking of books...

By Robert Greacen

The Doors of Perception, by Aldous Huxley. Chatto and Windus, 6s.
The Dynamics of Soviet Society, by W. W. Rostow. Secker and Warburg, 18s.
Christianity and Race Relations, by T. Price. S.C.M. Press, 4s. 6d.
The Life of Sir Aglovalle De Galis, by Clemence Housman. Cape, 12s. 6d.
The Seven Men of Spandau, by Jack Fishman. W. H. Allen, 16s.

"IF the doors of perception were cleansed, every thing will appear to man as it is, infinite" wrote William Blake. Aldous Huxley in this essay tells of an experiment he made by swallowing a pill of mescaline, the active principle of a drug named peyotl, long known to the Mexican Indians. His hope was that the drug would induce a state of heightened consciousness, thus admitting him, if only for a few hours, into "the kind of inner world described by Blake and AE."

Mr. Huxley found instead that the drug stimulated his visual awareness. He reveals the nature of this greatly increased awareness by describing his reactions to a number of paintings. (All his life Aldous Huxley has suffered from difficulties of sight—his book *THE ART OF SEEING* explains the restorative technique which resulted in his greatly improved eyesight. Mescaline would not produce this result in people of normal vision.) But the taking of mescaline in this case is a means to an end, not an end in itself. A kind of laboratory experiment, it is the starting-off point for a discussion of mysticism, art and the old debate between the contemplative and the activist.

The mescaline habit

Aldous Huxley believes that mescaline, properly treated and occasionally taken in small doses, would be less damaging than addiction to alcohol or smoking. No doubt he has in mind its moderate use. Would the manufacturers of mescaline be unwilling to advertise this passport to temporary happiness? The tobacco companies have certainly not, to my knowledge, cut their advertising since the link between excessive cigarette smoking and lung cancer was fairly conclusively established. Further, Mr. Huxley tells us when mescaline is taken "the will suffers a profound change for the worse." Now although many of us would be glad to see an end of war through a failure in the will to prosecute it by soldiers and politicians, it is obvious that the universal mescaline habit would produce other and less beneficial results.

But it would be foolish to take Aldous Huxley's mescaline suggestion over-seriously, for he probably puts it forward with a certain degree of irony. This little essay, *THE DOORS OF PERCEPTION*, can be confidently recommended to those who are willing to be provoked into thinking seriously about the nature of being; Mr. Huxley's

clarity of style, his challenge to accepted modes of thought and underlying scholarship are delightful.

THE DYNAMICS OF SOVIET SOCIETY, a fairly objective analysis of the reasons for sudden changes in Soviet policy, estimates the likelihood of an aggressive war started by Russia. The various tensions of life in the USSR are described as accurately as possible from published documents and intelligent conjecture.

"The colour bar certainly has no more promise to offer at this stage in world unification," writes Mr. Price in *CHRISTIANITY AND RACE RELATIONS*. He pleads for inter-racial tolerance and understanding and affirms that in the various Christian Churches "every person is a potential comrade, whatever his colour." Even, one is tempted to add, in the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa.



No promise in the Colour Bar

Two recent broadcasts by Laurence Housman have stimulated interest in this fictionalised version, *THE LIFE OF SIR AGLOVALE DE GALIS*, was first published over sixty years ago. The publisher's statement admirably summarises the theme by saying it deals with:

The hidden history of one who, putting Truth above Honour, was despised and rejected by all who held that by Ordeal of Battle a Knight could clear his stained honour, however true the charge made against him.

Their real crime

Among the world's most closely guarded prisoners are the seven formerly powerful Nazis—Hess, Speer, Funk and the others who now spend their lives in Spandau jail. Only near relatives may visit them and they are allowed little contact with the outside world.

The author has tried to reconstruct the way in which these men now live and to assess their plans for the future. Speer, the Nazi Minister of War Production, is the only one of them unreservedly to admit his guilt.

The book has a certain interest because of its subject, but Mr. Fishman's attitude runs on conventional lines. From reading his book one would imagine that the guilt only lay on the Nazi side, and that the massacres of German civilians by Allied bombing had never been.

The men of Spandau may well believe that the real crime is to lose a war not to wage it.

Letters to the Editor

The Third Camp

MR. B. K. GUPTA argues that it is wrong to associate Nehru with the "Third Camp" on three grounds.

First, the "Third Area" of uncommitted nations is shrinking rapidly. Mr. Gupta implies that since Nehru's diplomacy has suffered a reverse it is totally misconceived. But it seems unlikely that any other Indian government could have done more to keep Pakistan neutral.

Second, Nehru's government has increased military expenditure. This sad fact is the consequence of the Indian public's failure to view Indo-Pakistan relations with the enlightened detachment they show in the conflict between Russia and the West. But the detachment towards the latter conflict really does exist, and allows Nehru's sensible diplomacy a free hand. Let us be grateful for what we have. Half a loaf, etc.

Third, in domestic policies Nehru is conservative. I am well aware of this, and if Mr. Gupta will read my article again he will see that no part of my argument rests on any other assumption.

It is good to learn that Kripalani is now definitely a pacifist. He has, of course, long been known as a disciple of Gandhi, and it was this which made his association with the war hysteria of 1950 so deplorable.

GEOFFREY CARNALL

43 Wellesley Avenue, Belfast.

Majority rule

IN Switzerland the vote is not a mere right to elect a representative over whose actions the elector has no further control. It includes:

1. The right every six weeks to vote on what the public considers to be the eight most important issues of the day, and what the majority wish, is done.

2. The right to initiate legislation directly, without having to form a political party to press for that legislation (that is why in Switzerland party politics as we know it does not exist); and

3. The power to veto any Act which is passed by Parliament. In actual fact approximately 60 per cent of the Acts passed by the Swiss Parliament are vetoed by the public.

Thus in contrast to British countries, the majority always has its way, not only in a general sense, but also in the details of national and community life.

BRUCE GODWARD.

The Retreat, York.

Pacifist simplicity

TO what action can we pin Mr. T. H. Ibbotson (PN February 12)? He thinks that if pacifists dispense with the principles of non-violence we shall make more pacifists.

Dick Sheppard's pledge "We renounce war and will never support or sanction another" had before 1939 many times its present adherents and the pledge neither then nor now has any strings to it. How much further in simplicity would Mr. Ibbotson desire to go?

A virile Peace Pledge Union which scorned to accept the conscience sops of a militaristic state, which built its propaganda on a real application of non-violence would become a real check to militarism, apparent to everyone, and would be a powerful leaven in the present incoherent movement against war.

A. G. HIGGINS.

Jehovah's Witnesses

THE implication in Peace News (March 5) that the effect of the preaching activity of Jehovah's Witnesses is to "broadcast not the

word of God but the American way of life" is quite incorrect.

It is precisely because Jehovah's Witnesses preach the undiluted and pure word of God irrespective of any nationality that many have faced the firing squad in the Dean of Canterbury's spiritual home, the Soviet Union. In more democratic lands many have suffered cruel imprisonment for conscience sake.

J. A. STEVENS.

Greenway, Sidmouth, Devon.

I CHANCED the other day on a pamphlet entitled "Jehovah's Witnesses," by the late J. M. Swift, Canon Emeritus of Liverpool (Mowbray & Co., 4d.).

My astonishment was extreme at the mentality of a Church of England dignitary who, at a time when Witnesses were enduring martyrdom by the hundred in Hitler's concentration camps, could exacerbate hatred for them here by publicly smearing them as Nazi agents.

I myself hold no brief for the Witnesses. Only their readiness to put God (their God) before Caesar (any Caesar) commands my respect. It is precisely this, however, that provokes Canon Swift's most contemptuous hostility. There are times when his aspersions bear an ironical resemblance to those cast by Tacitus and his pagan contemporaries upon the first Christians—and they seem to be inspired by identically the same considerations.

This pamphlet was first issued in 1943. There can be no excuse for its continued circulation (the eleventh reprint was hatched only last year—a twelfth may be incubating). Is it not high time it was withdrawn, and replaced by a reliably informed and sincerely critical appraisal of this strange, unpopular, but undeniably heroic, sect?

F. A. LEA.

Chesham Bois, Bucks.

Bread and population

FURTHER to Miss Baker's letter (PN February 26) I would like to recommend a recently published book which amply demonstrates the vital untapped resources of the earth. It is "Let There Be Bread," by Robert Brittain, published by People's Books, and it is an exciting and optimistic book, well worth reading. It is a complete answer to the recent defeatist and gloomy predictions of Sir Charles Darwin on the future of man.

GWENDOLINE MULINGS.

2 Rectory Road, S.W.13.

HUNGER presents only one problem connected with overpopulation. There are others. Even if by some miracle, sufficient food were assured to a population increasing at the present rates, one must not overlook such questions as eugenics, health, the position of women, the maintenance of world peace—all of them bound up with the matter of world population.

Why cannot efforts to increase and distribute world food supplies go hand-in-hand with efforts to stabilise the birth-rate, instead of one of these methods being continually put forward as a "panacea" and used in argument against the other? These solutions are not incompatible; and both are necessary.

LUCY O. KINGSTON.

17 Charleville Road, Rathmines, Dublin.

GRASMERE

In the heart of the Lake District. Rothay Bank for invigorating, refreshing holidays, easy walks or mountain climbs. Modern amenities, first-class veg. diet. Open all the year round. Write: Isabel James Tel: 134

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select notices for publication. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

DIARY

Friday, March 19

HULL: 7.30 p.m.; Co-operative Inst., Kingston Sq. Stuart Morris, "Ellis Island and my American Tour." Admission 6d. PPU.

Saturday, March 20

SOUTHAMPTON: Friends' Mtg. Ho., Ordnance Rd. Southern Area Conference, Tom Wardle, "The Challenge of our Time." 3.30 p.m.; "The Problem." 6 p.m.; "What We Can Do About It." PPU.

Saturday-Sunday, March 20-21

SOUTHPORT: Commence 3 p.m. Saturday; Seaview Hotel, Bold St., Merseyside Area Conference, "Peace in the Atomic Age." Chairman, Harold Gullie. For.

Sunday, March 21

LONDON, W.11: 3.30 p.m.; Studio, 29 Addison Ave. (nr. Holland Pk. Stn.). Pacifist Universalist Service, Discourse, Rev. W. J. Piggott, "Some Experiments for World Peace." PPU Religion Commission.

Tuesday, March 23

HARROW: 7.30 p.m.; Little Arden Cottage, South Hill Ave. (nr. Harrow Stn.). Meeting to revive the Harrow PPU Group. Speaker, Connie Jones. PPU.

MANCHESTER: 1-2 p.m.; Deansgate Bilir Site. Christian pacifist open-air meeting. Local Methodist ministers and others. MPF.

SIREATHAM: 8 p.m.; 15 Woodbourne Ave., S.W.16. "A Programme for Pacifists." Discussion. APF.

Wednesday, March 24

LONDON, N.4: 7 p.m.; Pacifist Youth Action Group mtg. 3 Blackstock Rd., Finsbury Pk.

NOTTINGHAM: 4.30 p.m.; Nottingham University Peace Society. Stuart Morris, "American Experiences." 7.30 p.m.; Adult School Rooms, Friars Lane. Stuart Morris. Nottingham Group Meeting PPU.

Thursday, March 25

HAMPSTEAD: 7.30 p.m.; Friends' Mtg. Ho., 120 Heath St., Ted Orr, "The Australian Pacifist Movement." PPU.

MANCHESTER: 6.30 p.m.; Friends' Mtg. Ho., Mount St. Fellowship Mtg. to welcome Mennonites and Brethren (USA) from groups working on the Continent. Friends' Peace Ctee.

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends' Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Group Discussion. PPU.

Send notices to arrive not later than Monday morning. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (Hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address)—preferably in that order and style.

LONDON, W.C.1: 1.15-1.45 p.m.; Church of St. George the Martyr, Queen St. Weekly lunch-hour Service of Intercession for World Peace. Conducted by clergy and laymen of different denominations.

LONDON, W.C.2: 12.30 p.m.; Lincoln's Inn Fields. Open-air mtg. Sybil Morrison. PPU. LOWESTOFT: 7.30 p.m.; Council Chamber, Town Hall, Public Mtg. Rev. Clifford H. Macquire, "Three Weeks in the Soviet Union." For.

Friday, March 26

BRISTOL: 7.30 p.m.; Central Hall. Pacifist Brains Trust. Vera Britain, Stuart Morris, Minnie Pallister, Victor Yates. Question Master: Sybil Morrison. Admission 1s. PPU. EALING: 8 p.m.; 13 Florence Rd., W.5. Speaker, Sylvia Stevenson. Ealing PPU.

Saturday, March 27

MORLEY (nr. Leeds): 7 p.m.; Friends' Adult School, Ackroyd St. Three-Act Play, "The Flowers of the Forest," by John van Druen. Presented by Endsleigh Players. PPU.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, March 27-28 HARROGATE: For Area Conference at Beechwood Ct. Hotel, Cold Bath Rd. Speaker, John Ferguson. Details from Joyce Keeling, Flat 3, 31 Cromer Terr., Leeds, 2.

Sunday, March 28

BATH: 7.45 p.m.; 11 Grosvenor Pl., Stuart Morris, "Speaking Peace in America." PPU.

TERMS: Cash with order, 3d. per word, minimum 2s. 6d. (Box No. 6d. extra). Please don't send stamps in payment, except for odd pence. Maximum length 60 words. Address for Box No. replies: Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4.

LATEST TIME for copy: Monday morning before publication.

MEETINGS

ABBE PIERRE speaks at One World—Or None Great Public Mtg. in Central Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, March 30, at 7 p.m. (Doors open 6.30 p.m.). Speakers include: Rt. Hon. Clement Davies, MP; Henry Osborne, MP; Signora Chiesla Tibaldi (Italy); I. J. Pittman, MP; A. A. Vondeling, MP (Holland); Prof. Hugo Oswald (Sweden). Chairman: Gilbert McAllister. Admission Free. Reserved seats, 5s. and 2s. 6d., from Parliamentary Assn. for World Government, 21 Hampstead Lane, Highgate Village, N.6, or Federal Union and Crusade for World Government, 20 Buckingham St., W.C.2. (TRA 2275.)

INTERNATIONAL CLUB, Bath. Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, 18 Queen Square, Bath. All welcome.

KING'S WEIGH House Church, Duke St., nr. Bond St. Tube. Sunday at 7 p.m. The Gospel of Peace. Rev. Claud M. Coleman, MA, B.Litt.

WAR AND THE WORKERS. Open lecture discussion at Garibaldi Restaurant, 10 Laystall St., London, E.C.1, off Clerkenwell Rd., nr.

Holborn Hall, Sunday, March 28, 7 p.m. Speaker: Don Peddy (Syndicalist Workers' Federation).

ACCOMMODATION WANTED AND OFFERED

HOMELY ACCOMMODATION and jolly good food to visitors and permanent guests. CANONBURY 1340. I. and H. Shaylor, 27 Hamilton Park, N.5.

AGM DELEGATE recommends Shayer for board or bed and breakfast. LARGE single room with use of kitchen, bath, nr. Finchley Rd. Tube Stn. MAI 5183.

PACIFIST vegetarian writer and schoolchild require accommodation North London. Suggestions welcomed. Box No. 550.

PERSONAL

CHRISTIANITY, an all-pervading intelligence in a stupid world reacting thoughtlessly? For free, friendly appointment ring Cundy, WEL 6036.

ELIJAH COMING before Christ. World's only hope for peace. Wonderful book free. Megiddo Mission, Dept. 7, Rochester, N.Y. USA.

WAR RESISTERS' International welcome gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged airmail covers. Please send to WRI, Lansbury House, 88 Park Ave., Bush Hill Park, Enfield Middlesex.

SITUATIONS AND WORK WANTED. FIRST-CLASS duplicating/typing. Mabel Eyles Secretarial Service, 395 Hornsey Rd. N.19. ARC 1765, Ext. 1.

EDUCATIONAL

SPEECH TRAINING and elocution. Accents corrected. Conversational English. Public speaking. Private or class tuition. PRI 3605. 6-9 p.m.

LITERATURE

AMERICAN READERS. Save up to 70% on timely books. Send for latest list of book specials. Wellington's Bookshop, 346 Concord. Belmont, Mass.

ATTENTION DRAMA GROUPS! English playwright offers The Old School Tie, smart modern comedy, mildly satirising Public School system. Principal character peace protagonist. E. M. Godwin, 1432 No. Occidental Blvd., Hollywood, Calif., USA.

QUAKERISM. Information and literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

RELIGION AND THE MODERN WORLD. Special Spring number of The Plain View, the Humanist Quarterly, articles by J. H. Oldham, Lance Whyte, H. J. Blackham, J. B. Coates, and others. 1s. 11d. (post free) from 4a Inverness Place, London, W.2.

CATHOLICS AND INTERNATIONAL WAR. Discussion booklet, 4d., post paid. BM/Jonib, London, W.C.1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

WANTED NOW for British Peace Ctee's Spring Fair, London, April 9 and 10. Offers of material of all kinds, gifts for sale, plants, jams, preserves, tinned food, cakes, furniture, foreign stamps, money and helpers, to 81 City Rd., E.C.1. CLE 0183.

HOLIDAYS. BRIGHTON—HOVE. Vegetarian Guest House. Central for entertainments. 44 Osmand Rd., Hove, 2. Tel: 3800. Ralph Walton, MSF. Osteopathy—Massage.

BULGARIA. First depart, April 11, then weekly from May 15. For full programme 14 countries send s.a.e. to Holiday Friendship Service, 5 Goodwins Ct., London, W.C.2.

COME TO the Dolomites with the Vegetarian Social Club. Write Cyril H. Oliver, 7 Selborne Rd., Ilford, Essex.

COTSWOLD HILLS. The Yew Trees, Cockleford, Cowley, Cheltenham. Excellent centre, good food, 15s. 6d. daily, £4 15s. weekly. Brochure from Lilla Tansley.

DEVON AND CORNWALL. Holidays in Friendly Guest Houses. Dawlish and Newquay. Exceptionally good value. Excursions conducted. Illustrated brochure 11 free from: Douglas Bishop, "Fairfield," Dawlish, Devon (Tel. 2151).

EDINBURGH, 10. Nile Grove Hotel. Excellent cuisine (orthodox or vegetarian), on pension terms till June. £1 1s. per day. Telephone 541821.

FRESHWATER BAY, IOW. Dimbola. 1954 Brochure ready. Special terms January/May. S. Stoner, Dimbola, Freshwater Bay.

HEATHERBY VEGETARIAN GUEST-HOUSE invites visitors. Large sun verandah overlooking sea. Southway, Sidmouth, Tel: 802.

ILFRACOMBE. Pinehurst Guest House, Chambercombe Pk. Overlooking lovely valley and sea. All modern amenities. Near beaches. Free parking. 41-6 gns.

Mrs. HINE welcomes guests who appreciate well-balanced vegetarian food reform meals. Bungalow one mile from sea, lovely country walks. Good bus and train service to South Coast resorts. Special terms up to June 1.

Shiloh, "Inlands Rd., Nutbourne, Chichester. Sussex. Telephone Emmsworth 2887.

RYE. "Simon the Pie-man" Tearooms, Lion St., Rye, offer full board and accommodation. Tel: Rye 2207.

SEA PALLING, NORFOLK. Quiet village near Broad. Glorious sands. Carefree holidays, comfort, good food (Vegan optional). Woodbine Guest House. Phone Hickling 236.

SWANAGE. Vegetarian Guest House. Own garden produce. Children welcomed. "Wave-ney," Park Rd. Phone: 2804.

THE ATLANTIC Guest House, Bude, offers comfort, good food and good company amidst glorious coastal scenery. Free Brochure from Joan and Arnold Lomax. Tel. 447.

PEACE NEWS by POST or from a NEWSAGENT

Postal Subscription Rates

Great Britain and Abroad (Sea Mail): Twelve wks. 5s.; 24 wks. 10s.; One yr. 21s.

TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR NEW READERS:

Home or Abroad: 2s. 6d. for nine weeks

AIR MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

India, Africa, Near East: Twelve wks. 8s.; 24 wks. 16s.; One yr. 34s.

Australia, New Zealand and Far East: Twelve wks. 9s.; 24 wks. 18s.; One yr. 38s.

AIR EXPRESS EDITION

to US and all parts of America, from Peace News US Sales Office, c/o American Friends Service Committee, 130 Brattle St., Cambridge 38, Mass. (mailed on publication day) \$4 year, \$2 six months.

New readers: 3 months trial, \$1.

PLEASE HAND THIS TO YOUR NEWSAGENT

Please deliver PEACE NEWS to me weekly

To M..... (Newsagent's name)

Name.....

Address.....

Note to Newsagent—PEACE NEWS is published weekly as a national newspaper at the retail price of 4d. It is obtainable by your wholesaler at the usual rates from the Publishers, at 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4.

All night attack on the Army Estimates

THE RULES OF WAR

THERE were three all-night sittings of the House of Commons on the Service Estimates and the debate on the Army was the longest of them all. Some of the papers next day were complaining about Members being called upon to sit all night.

Now nobody likes all-night sittings and we certainly do not keep the debates going just for the fun of the thing.

But it was important that these huge estimates involving no less than £1,485,000,000 of the taxpayers' money should be challenged.

What is the use of opposing Mr. Butler's Budget when he comes along with his proposals for meeting the bill if we have not protested when the Estimates were submitted for the consideration of Parliament.

If the Labour opposition is to convince the country that it is in earnest when it declares for a reduction in the amount of money granted to Defence and for a reduction in the term of National Service, then it must be prepared to put up a wholehearted fight against the Air Force, Navy and Army Estimates.

True the Labour Party voted for the bringing home of the soldiers from Egypt, but there is more in the Army Estimates than provision for Suez, and so a group of us helped to carry on the fight all through the night and well into the next day.

When the whole Labour Party, or the majority of its members, shows signs of real thorough-going opposition to the voting of these huge sums, then the apathy, about which Transport House complains, will begin to disappear.

In the Army Estimates debate the Tory Brigadiers and Colonels joined in and had their say. That was one reason why the debate went on for so long. The Tory Chief Whip did not manage to keep them down, for this is their traditional day out. Many of them now agree that there should be at least two days for the Estimates for each of the Forces, for it is a scandal to rush through these colossal bills without adequate Parliamentary debate.

Colonial levies

At the end of the Memorandum of the Secretary for War there was a map of the world showing the various places where there were now British soldiers. I counted at least 20, including the Colonial levies, who are in the Army Estimates, too.

And the irony of it is that there is practically no British Army in Britain for the purpose of defending Britain herself.

Sir Winston Churchill has said:

"We are the only country in the world that ever had two years' national compulsory service and not a brigade to defend its own land."

Yet the War Office is demanding from the British taxpayer this year the huge sum of

£561,000,000 for the Army.

The Estimates were criticised from many different points of view. There were the pacifists, the Bevanites, the ex-soldiers who think we are spending too much money for too little results, and the disillusioned who are wondering where this huge rearmament programme is leading us.

It was far and away the best all round, all out attack on the Estimates that we have had yet.

Members who have not hitherto spoken in the debates on the Estimates joined in. This is all to the good. It will not be lost on the rank and file. The people in the country have had their attention directed to the huge military expenditure as never before.

PUERTO RICO and the U.S.A.

From page two

Rican independence, as soon as its people signify that they desire it. At the very least it would appear that some further effort to get a genuine popular verdict should be made.

Whether Puerto Rico gains or loses under the tie to the US in an economic sense is also a matter debated by people who cannot be dismissed as psychopaths or even as fanatics. Puerto Ricans are exempt from Federal income taxes. Federal excise on goods shipped to the mainland and Federal customs duties on goods imported into Puerto Rico are given to the Puerto Rican treasury. On the other hand, Senator Conception regards this as a "colonial" harnessing of the island to the mainland economy and holds that an independent Puerto Rico could get a better deal than it now has.

Some advances have been made in the standard of living but 60,000 Puerto Ricans migrate to the mainland in one year. They live in slums in New York and Chicago and now that there is unemployment here the Welfare Commissioner in the latter city suggests a lot of them be shipped back (like chattels?) to their homeland. It is surely possible to understand that deep dissatisfaction, a profound insecurity and a temptation to resort to desperate measures can develop in such circumstances.

There is no doubt that the tragic demonstration in Congress was staged by Lolita Lebron and her companions to coincide with the opening of the Tenth Inter-American Conference at Caracas, Venezuela.

Evidence of deep distrust of the US and dissatisfaction with US economic policy is manifested in great degree by many Latin American States at that Conference and in some degree by all. Even a rather mild US resolution against "Communist intervention"

During and since the war successive Governments have had to consider methods of defence against all possible forms of attack, including even such forms as biological warfare which are expressly forbidden by the rules of war . . . Her Majesty's Government cannot neglect consideration of the precautions which would need to be taken should this form of warfare ever be applied against us . . . The experiments are essentially to determine the defence to be offered against possible bacteriological attack on the populace . . . It is probable that animals of several different types, including monkeys, will be used. The experiments are conducted humanely.

—Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Supply, March 12, 1954.

THE extreme horror, which is constantly expressed by State and Church alike, against the use of germs in warfare is something that, in view of the use of napalm and the atom bomb, is difficult to understand.

Napalm is petrol in the form of a sticky jelly which, dropped and sprayed upon human beings in Korea, burned and blackened the skin, paralysed the throat and organs, so that the person so assaulted could not live, but did not die for at least twenty-four hours, and sometimes longer.

The atom bomb destroyed people in such a way that those nearest to the blast were simply there no longer, neither flesh, nor blood, nor

bones; those who survived were crawling about scorched and mutilated, while many others, it is now known, are living diseased and cankered.

Tens of thousands of human beings can be blasted to pieces; men can be made sterile and women barren; a future generation can be impregnated with unknown diseases, and the rules of war will not have been broken. But to deliberately infect with typhus, or typhoid or the plague is against the rules.

If this monstrous differentiation between one form of horror weapon, and another, is to be accepted, then it is surely obvious that bacteriological research for the purpose of war should be abandoned.

That it is in fact being carried on in this country, even if we had not known it before is now made clear. Experiments are to be undertaken for the purpose of "defending" Great Britain against such an attack, and obviously this cannot be done unless germs of various diseases (perhaps some as horrible as those resulting from the radio-activity of the atom and hydrogen bombs) are launched upon some living creatures.

It is equally obvious that these germs are, therefore, ready in this country for the proposed experiment. For defence only, of course! But, nevertheless, manufactured and arranged in such a form as can be dropped from an aeroplane, shot from a rocket, or fired from a gun.

★

The animals which will be assailed with whatever hideous diseases the minds of scientists have been able to evolve, will, we are told, be treated "humanely." This piece of cant is so plainly a mere sop to animal lovers, that it can be discounted, unless we are to believe that we are experimenting in how to anaesthetize enough people to kill them off painlessly with diseases in order to secure victory. In that case why bother with germs; morphia would do!

Last week a correspondent seemed to be under the impression that I was "puzzled" by Sir John Slessor's reference to "humane bombing," but I imagined I had made it clear that, far from being puzzled, I was not in the least deceived by such a hypocritical piece of dangerous nonsense.

The real truth, that lies behind Duncan Sandys carefully worded information about this experiment in "defence," is that this weapon, the use of which it is alleged is outside the "rules of war," is now in our hands.

It is no doubt true that even gangs of thieves and murderers may have certain rules among themselves to which they conform, but they would scarcely be acceptable to the honest and peaceable citizen. Rules can and are broken, moreover, as the rule against attacking civilians which has long ago been relegated to the growing heap of broken promises and "scraps of paper."

The rules of humanity should forbid these terrible weapons, refuse consent to wholesale murder, and outlaw war. So long as war is accepted as the final arbiter "modern" weapons will be used, and there is no answer to these horrors but abolition. If peace is ever to be established this must be the first rule.

PACIFIST BRAINS TRUST

THE CENTRAL HALL
BRISTOL

Friday, March 26th

* VERA BRITAIN
* STUART MORRIS
* MINNIE PALLISTER
* VICTOR YATES, M.P.

QUESTION MASTER

SYBIL MORRISON

Questions Invited

To be sent to the above or handed in at the meeting

Admission 1/- At 7.30 p.m.

Tickets available from—Miss M. L. Brooks,
24 West Street, Oldland Common;
W. J. Parkin, 15 Kenmore Crescent,
Bristol 7; or Tel. 82968

ARRANGED BY THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION

PPU RELIGION COMMISSION

Pacifist Universalist Service
3.30 p.m. Sunday March 21
Studio, 29 Addison Ave., London W.11
(Near Holland Park Stn.)

Discourse by Rev. W. J. Piggott
"Some Experiments for World Peace."

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union.
Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS
Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1

Published from 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4, by
Peace News Ltd. Printed by The Goodwin Press (T.U.),
135 Fenchurch Rd., London, N.A.

TO AID REFUGEES

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees announced the receipt of £2,500 from the Friends Service Council, London, for the UN Refugee Emergency Fund. (UNREF). UNREF is still desperately short of money. The care and maintenance programme for the most needy refugees of European origin in Asia is assured only until the end of April 1954 and all other emergency relief work is already being discontinued. One million dollars is needed in 1954.

Poster March to Small Arms Factory

PEACE EXHIBITION

"Any Questions?"

ENFIELD HIGHWAY Middx.

Saturday, March 27th

11.0 a.m. Poster parade from The Bell Inn, Hertford Road, Enfield Highway to Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock.
2.15 p.m. Poster parade along Enfield Highway.
2.30-7.00 p.m. PEACE EXHIBITION and bookstall Small Co-operative Hall, Hertford Road, buffet from 4.30 p.m. Admission free
3.00 p.m. Open-air meeting by The Bell Inn.
7.00 p.m. "ANY QUESTIONS?" session opened by J. Allen Skinner, Editor of Peace News. Panel: Archie French (Question Master); Hugh Brock, Connie Jones, Michael Randle, Tom Wardle.

Non-violent Resistance Group, Pacifist Youth Action Group, Enfield Peace Pledge Union.

FULL PROGRAMME FROM 79 Lordship Park, N.16

Holiday suggestion . . .

For an inexpensive holiday why not exchange houses with a family who may want to visit your locality
Accommodation ads. cost only 3d a word, minimum 2s 6d.

For congenial holidays support our advertisers, or send s.a.e. for advice to

PEACE NEWS HOLIDAY BUREAU
3 Blackstock Road, London N.4.

Why not spend your Spring or Summer Holiday in the Lake District?

Highfield Vegetarian Guest House, The Heads, Keswick, Among Beautiful Lake and Mountain Scenery. Offers Good Food, Comfort, Friendly Atmosphere.
Ann Horner. Tel.: Keswick 508. Y.C.A. Member.

Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence

LADY EMMELINE PETHICK-LAWRENCE died last week at the age of 86 after an active life devoted to the causes of social relief, women's rights and peace. Imprisoned five times in the campaign for women's votes, she was a hunger striker. In 1914 she went to the US to promote the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and later went to the International Women's Congress at the Hague. In 1938 she published a book of reminiscences called "My Part in a Changing World." Sybil Morrison, Chairman of the Peace Pledge Union, writes:

Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence was a pacifist who came to the conclusion during the second world war that "the pursuit of peace as an end in itself is an illusion. Peace is inseparable from a just and humane social order."

She was in all essentials one of the most truly pacifist people I have ever known, and her heart-searchings at that time, remain still in my mind as more valuable than almost any speech or sermon I have ever heard.

Her courage, tenacity and endurance in the long struggle for women's emancipation is part of history and will never be forgotten.

I last saw her on the occasion of her Golden Wedding; those of us who were privileged to join with her and her husband on that occasion will not easily forget, amid all the excitement, speeches and presentations, the outstanding picture of the gentle, sweet expression, looking towards the partner of a lifetime with love and joy and pride, herself forgotten, her thoughts for him.

All must envy such a perfect partnership; all will grieve for him who is now alone; all will rejoice at a fine life, well and truly lived.

Germany: protest conferences

The British Peace Committee (World Peace Council) has decided to organise an Emergency Conference at the Beaver Hall, London, on April 3 and 4, for individuals and organisations seeking a peaceful alternative to the policy of rebuilding German militarism.

A Conference on German Rearmament organised by the Federation of West Yorkshire Peace Organisations will be held this Saturday (March 20) at the Lecture Theatre of the Literary and Philosophical Institute, Harrison Road, Halifax. Stanley Farrar, Secretary of the Northern Friends Peace Board will be among the speakers. He will be speaking in a personal capacity. The fee is 1s. per delegate.